DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 182 170 SE 029 955

TITLE Game Animals of Colorado.
INSTITUTION Colorado State Dept. of Education, Denver.: Colorado State Div. of Wildlife, Denver.
PUB DATE 79
NOTE 20p.; For related documents, see SE 029 954-956
LANGUAGE English; Spanish

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Ecology; *Environment; *Environmental Education; Natural Resources; Outdoor Education; *Spanish; Translation; *Wildlife Management; Zoology
IDENTIFIERS *Game Animals; Hunting

ABSTRACT

This booklet is intended to familiarize the reader with game animals typical of Colorado. Discussions in both English and Spanish are presented. Discussions cover the management of game animals, individual game species, and introduced species of game animals. (RE)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
ATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
George Ek

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

SE 029 955

Managing our game resource

When the beaver trappers first came to Colorado, they found abundant wildlife. And, the supply seemed inexhaustible to the later settlers who poured in and largely depended on wild animals for their food supply. But, as more and more people settled, ranching and mining grew into prosperous enterprises, and cities mushroomed, wildlife began to disappear. Dwindling range, combined with over-killing by market hunters, soon cut wildlife to dangerously low numbers and many animals — like the bison and antelope — teetered on the verge of extinction. By the early 1900s however, market hunting was brought under control and people had turned more to agriculture and farm-raised animals for their food supply.

The threat to wildlife did not end with control of hunting, however. Man continued to spread out, cutting down on the land available to wildlife. Moreover, the threat to wildlife is still with us today. Man is still altering the world around him. And, the pace continues to increase. Every change made by man ripples through the natural world; the effects can be disastrous to wildlife.

A look at Colorado's most numerous big game animal — the mule deer — provides a good illustration. During the summer, the deer find practically unlimited food in the high mountains. As fall approaches, the deer migrate to lower elevations ahead of the snow. But, the area of snow-free winter deer range is now tiny in comparison to the area of summer range. Deer in huge herds compete not only with each other, but with domestic animals as well, for food. Under such intense pressure, the range deteriorates. Favored browse plants die out. As browse plants disappear and the grass dies under pressure from cattle grazing, the soil erodes and washes off the hills and slopes into the rivers below. When the soil is gone, there is nothing left to support either

The mule deer is Colorado's most numerous big game animal

Photo by Leonard Lee Rue III

browse or grass. The net effect is the loss of three natural resources: the plants which protect the watershed, the soil, and, finally, the wildlife.

The area in which animals live is called habitat, and habitat is the key to managing and preserving our wildlife. Most of man's actions—development, water diversions and dams, farming and forestry practices—tend to either destroy or alter habitat. Acquiring, improving and preserving habitat is a big part of managing wildlife.

And, hunting plays an important role. A limited food supply can only support so many animals. When the population is larger than what the food supply can support, animals starve to death. Hunting helps keep the population in balance with the food supply.

Wildlife is managed by a state agency in Colorado—the Division of Wildlife. So far, the Division's efforts have been very successful. Deer have increased rapidly in population and are now found in every county of the state. Elk have spread out over most of the state's mountainous country. Programs by the Division have boosted both antelope and bighorn sheep populations. Mountain goats have been brought to the state, and, recently, moose have even been reintroduced into Colorado. Nevertheless, the threat man poses to wildlife still exists, probably now more than ever. Preserving our wildlife for the future can only happen if we understand what is at stake and how we can live in harmony with nature; that is what is called conservation.

This booklet has been prepared to tell you a little bit about the game animals found in Colorado so that you might better understand why it is so important to not only know the meaning of conservation, but practice it as well. If you are interested in hunting, contact the Division of Wildlife for information on season dates, regulations, bag limits and li enses.

El Manejo de Nuestros Recursos de Caza

Cuando los cazadores de castores vinieron a Colorado por la primera vez, hallaron ámplios números de animales al aire libre. Posteriormente la cantidad parecia inagotable a los colonos que vinieron a poblar en plentitud. Por la mayor parte ellos contaron con los animales salvajes por su sustento. No obstante, la diminución de pastos, junto con la matanza excesiva por cazadores comerciantes, dentro de poco redució a un nivel peligroso la multitud de animales

salvajes. Muchos, como el búfalo y el antílope, tambalearon sobre la extremidad de extinción. Por la primera parte del siglo presente, sin embargo, la caza comercial fué controlada. Luego los pobladores tuvieron que cambiar a la agricultura y la cría de ganado por su alimento.

A pesar de eso, la amenaza no se terminó con el freno de la caza. Todavia continua a alterar su ambiente la especie humana, por un modo sorprendente. Hace oleaditas cada vicisitud por el sistema natural. Las consecuencias pueden ser calamitosas para los animales silvestres. Sirve como buen ejemplo el venado macho. Por las sierras encuentra pastos abundantes durante el verano. En todo caso cuando se mudan los hatos hacia abajo por el invierno, por comparación es muy pequeña la cantidad de pasto a causa del hombre que se extiende más y más. Están sobrepastadas las matas de ramonea y pone en peligro a la tierra que se desnuda y pronto está rechazada o gastada. Se pierde tres recursos preciosos: la tierra, las plantas y los animales salvajes.

El espacio en que viven los animales es designado habitación; es la clave del manejo y conservación de nuestros animales al aire libre. La mayor parte de las acciones del hombre propenden a destruir o mudar la habitación. La administración de animales al aire libre toma por su mayor interés el mejoramiento, la preservación y la adquisición de habitación o medio. También hace un papel en esto la caza. La escasez de pasto significa que menos animales pueden estar soportados. Cuando el número de animales es más grande que el pasto puede sustentar, algunos animales se mueren de hambre. Nos ayuda la caza a mantener la población en equilibrio con la cantidad de pasto.

Los animales salvajes de Colorado están manejados por una agencia del estado, la División de Animales Salvajes. Hasta ahora los esfuerzos de la División han salido muy bien. Se acrecentan de una manera firme las manadas de venado y ante, tan bueno como esas de antílopes y carneros de grandes cuernos. Devolvieron hasta la mosa al estado. Con todo, la especie humana todavia se coloca en una postura amenazadora a animales silvestres, probablemente ahora más que nunca. La conservación de nuestros animales al aire libre para el futuro puede acontecer únicamente si comprendemos lo que esté arriesgado y lo que podamos hacer para vivir de acuerdo con la naturaleza; eso es lo que llamamos la conservación.

La preparación de este folleto se ha hecho para informarle de la importancia de ejercer la preservación. Si tiene usted interés en la caza, pongase en contacto con la División de Animales Salvajes. Le darán avisos de las fechas de temporadas, límites de cacería, reglas y licencias.

DEER

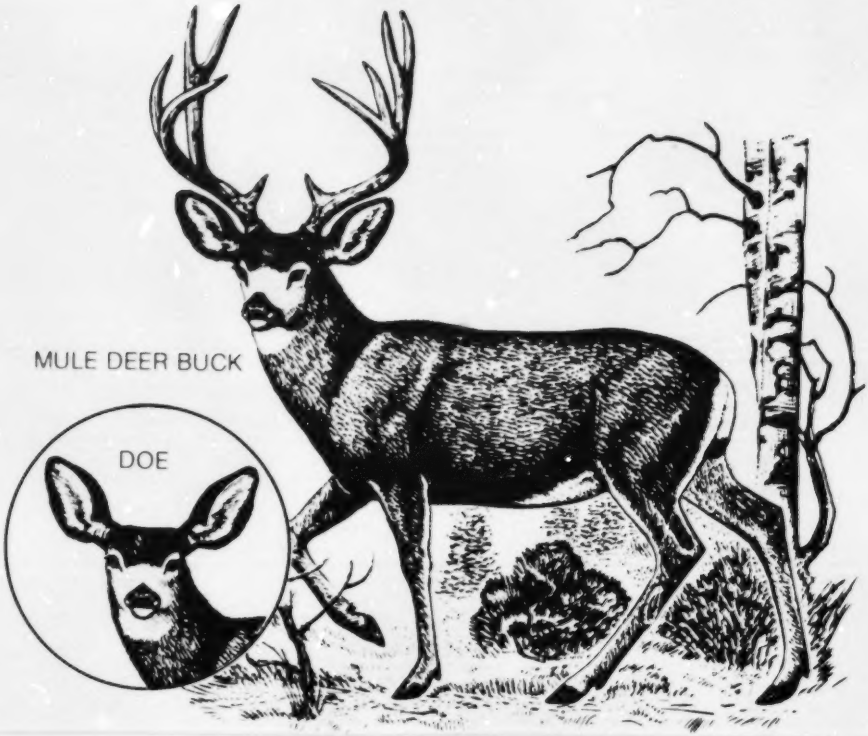
The mule deer is the most common member of the deer family found in Colorado. This species is easy to recognize because of its large, mule-like ears. The bucks have impressive antlers which they shed during January and February of each year. New ones start to grow within a few weeks and are encased in "velvet," a live skin growth which is rubbed off on trees after the antlers turn to bone. Antlers are used mostly during the mating season which peaks in mid-November. The young are usually born as twins in May or early June. They are weaned by fall, but remain with their mother until the following spring. Severe winters take a heavy toll on fawns.

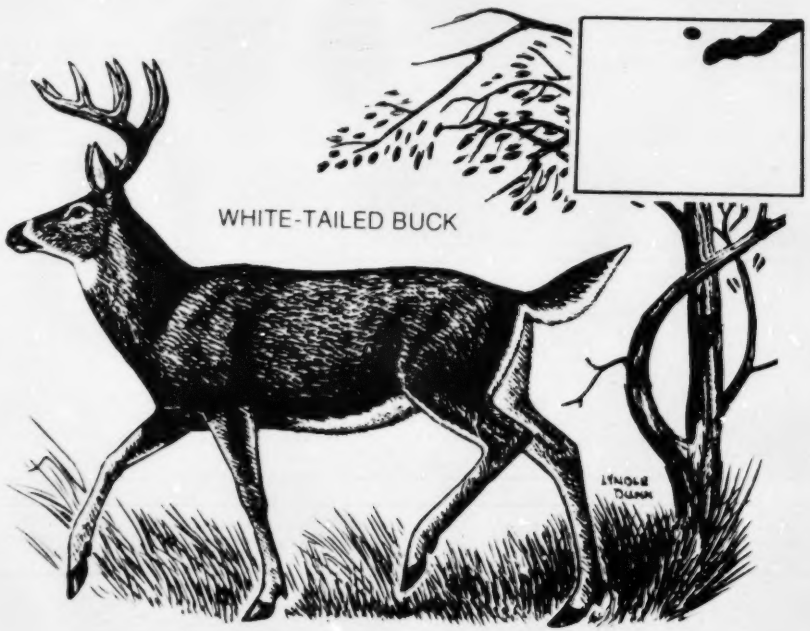
When threatened, mule deer rely on a keen sense of smell and hearing, protective coloring and a four-footed bounding gait to make a graceful escape. Mule deer prefer a brush diet and can usually be seen actively browsing in the subdued light of early morning or late afternoon.

The white-tailed deer is also found in Colorado along river bottoms or the foothills of the eastern part of the state. When frightened, these deer erect their tails which are snowy-white underneath. Unlike the mule deer, the white-tail slips quietly into the brush or timber when alarmed.

El Venado

El miembro más común de la familia de venados de Colorado es el venado macho (se parece a un mulo debido a sus orejas grandes). Una vez cada año el macho de cuernas impresivas se las desprende y crece nuevas. Por el mes de noviembre llega el zenit del tiempo de aparearse; por el mes de mayo o al principio de junio de ordinario pare la gama de parejas. Hasta la próxima primavera se quedan los cervatos con la gama. Contra sus enemigos las defensas primarias del gamo son un sentido agudo de oler, la coloración protectora y un gracioso paso de salto. El venado de cola blanca también se encuentra en Colorado, en su mayor parte en el este del estado. Cuando está espantado levanta su cola, lo por debajo siendo blanco como los ampos de la nieve.


MULE DEER BUCK
DOE


WHITE-TAILED BUCK

ELK

The elk is one of Colorado's largest and most majestic animals. Ranging in weight from 400 to 1,000 pounds, elk are much larger than mule deer and can search further and in deeper snow for food. The basic body color is brownish-gray and the head and neck are covered with long hair colored a rich chestnut brown. Elk have a well-defined whitish-yellow rump patch. They live in the grassy meadows high in the mountains during the summer and move to lower elevations during the winter. The adult bulls, which have huge antlers, emit a loud, musical sound called a bugle during the mating season in September and early October. A single calf is born in June, and the cows and calves frequently gather together into large cow-calf herds during the summer. The older bulls stay off by themselves.

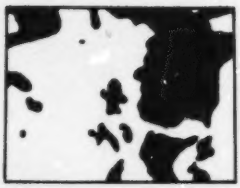
Elk are wary animals and will quickly flee from man. They have good senses of sight, hearing and smell. In Colorado, the elk population has increased steadily over the past 15-20 years. The Division of Wildlife estimated the total elk population in the state at about 140,000 in 1978. Elk have also become increasingly prized as big game animals, and the number of elk hunters increases each year as steadily as the elk population.

El Ante

Uno de los más majestuosos animales de Colorado, varia el ante de 400 a 1,000 libras. Su color es pardo y gris, con largo pelo castaño sobre su cabeza y pescuezo. Pasa el verano en la sierra alta, bajando a alturas más bajas por el invierno. El tiempo de aparearse cae por septiembre o al principio de octubre. Nace solo un cervatillo en el mes de junio. Como animal cuato, el ante se huye con presteza del humano. En este estado la población de antes ha crecido firmemente durante los últimos quince a viente años. En 1978 se estima como casi 140,000.

BULL ELK

COW ELK



ANTELOPE

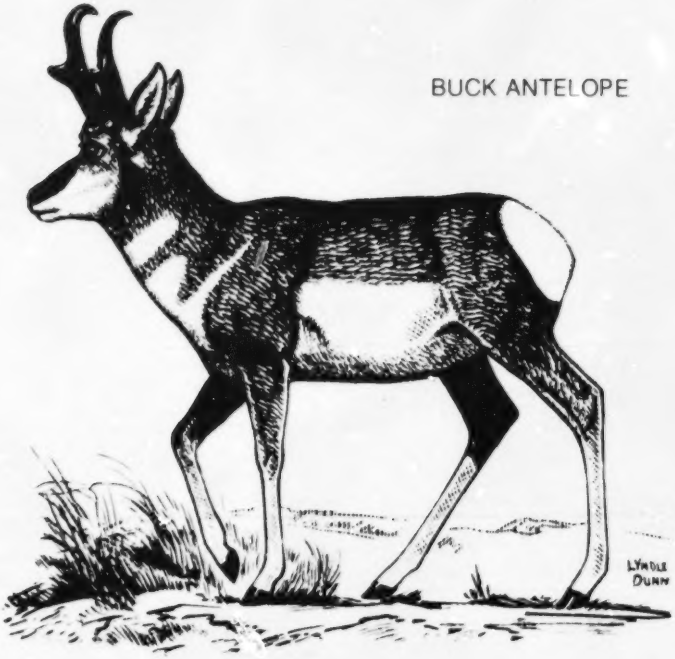
Once nearly as numerous as the bison, the pronghorn antelope was almost wiped out in Colorado by the turn of the century. Today, after many years of intensive protection and transplanting, there are an estimated 30,000 in the state, and a limited hunt is allowed each year. Antelope are mainly plains animals, but have been spotted in pinon-juniper stands of the foothills as well. They are among the fastest animals in the world and depend on their keen eyesight and speed to avoid enemies. Resembling small deer in shape, antelope weigh from 100 to 140 pounds with does averaging about 20 pounds less than bucks. The overall color is a rich reddish-tan on the upper half of the body and the outside of the legs, with bright, white underparts and rump patch. The white throat is crossed by two wide, dark brown bands. Both sexes wear true horns with permanent bony cores.

Mating season is in September and October, and the young—usually twins after the first birth—are born in May or June. Antelope feed on brush, foliage and grasses. They have a fondness for cactus fruit and biologists studying their food habits have found antelope stomach walls punctured by cactus spines. The animals apparently suffer no serious ill effects from the spines, though.

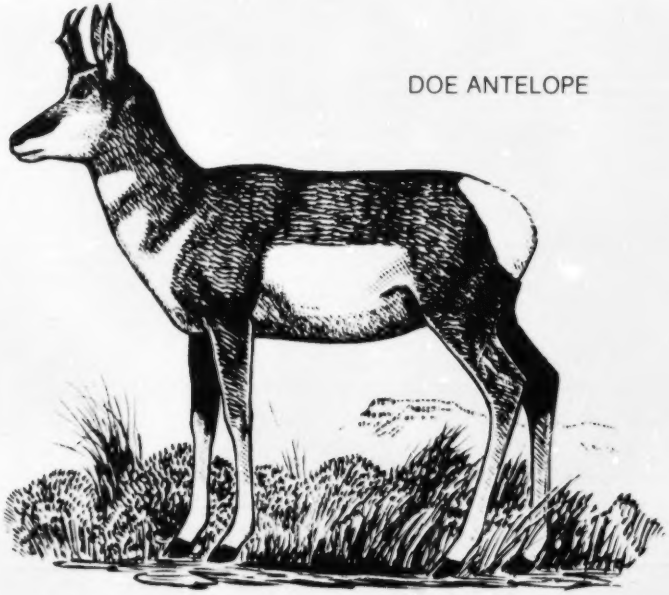
El Antílope

Por el año 1900 el antílope de las Montañas Roqueñas cuasi fué destruido en Colorado. Al lo menos su restablecimiento en el estado ha recibido ayuda por un sistema de amparo y trasplante. Es pequeño, por término medio de 100 a 140 libras; con todo eso es uno de los animales más veloces del mundo. Depende de su rapidez más su vista penetrante para evitar sus enemigos. Por lo común subsiste por los llanos; pasta de matorrales, follajes y hierbas. Es lozano de color rojizo tostado. Trae lustrosas partes inferiores blancas y una anca manchada. Se cruza la garganta blanca por dos anchas obscuras rayas pardas. Ambos sexos tienen cuernos genuinos.

BUCK ANTELOPE



DOE ANTELOPE



BIGHORN SHEEP

The agile bighorn sheep live in remote and often inaccessible areas and rely on the granite crags of their homes for protection. They have chunky, heavily muscled bodies and strong, stout legs. Rams sometimes weigh from 200 to 300 pounds. The ram's horns alone may weigh up to 50 pounds, and they are used as battering rams before and during the mating season of November and December when the rams rival one another for their harems. The horns are not shed, but continue to grow with age. The ewe's horns are smaller and only slightly curved. Instead of wool, bighorn sheep have long hair which provides good insulation against the cold.

The state's official animal, bighorns graze on a variety of grasses and sometimes browse on bushes and trees. In summer, the ewes and lambs stay together in groups while the rams are off in groups by themselves. Lambs are born during May, June and July on inaccessible ledges safe from predators. Three days after birth the lamb can rival its mother in agility on the cliffs. Diseases, like the parasitic lungworn, have often taken a heavy toll of bighorns, particularly young lambs. In addition, the animal's range has been severely reduced by man's presence.

El Carnero de Grandes Cuernos

Como el animal oficial del estado, vive el carnero de grandes cuernos en lejanas regiones peñascosas. Conta con los riscos granitos de su asilo para su protección. Aunque, ha visto este ágil animal tiempos turbios debido a varias enfermedades. Con sus inmensos cuernos los carneros luchan uno al otro durante el tiempo (los meses de noviembre y diciembre) de aparearse. Batallan por los derechos a los harems. Sobre salientes inaccesibles, seguros de adversarios rapaces, los corderos nacen por los meses de mayo, junio y julio. Tres días después del parto puede el cordero entrar de competencia con la hembra en agilidad encima de las escarpas. Quedan juntos los corderos con las hembras durante el verano mientras que se agrupan solos los carneros.

BIGHORN RAM

BIGHORN EWE

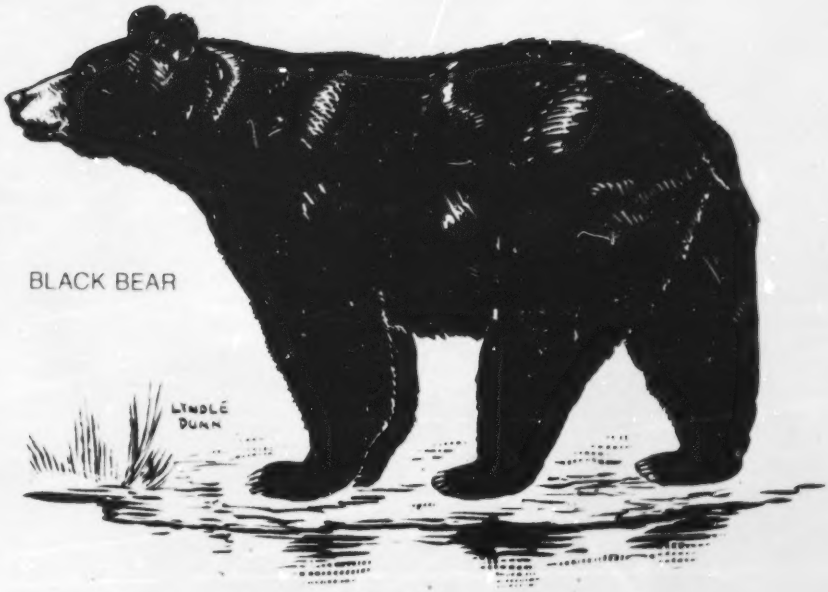
BEAR

Called the black bear, this animal actually varies in color from cinnamon or brown to black and may even have white patches. A large male weighs an average of 300 to 400 pounds; the female weighs considerably less. Black bears live in brushy and forested areas of Colorado and feed mostly on grasses, sedges and buds, berries, fruits, honey and various fresh or decaying meats. Black bears mate during the summer and the female gives birth (usually to twins) in the winter den in February or March. The cubs stay with the mother during the first summer and join her in the den the next winter. By the following spring, the cubs are on their own and the female conceives again. The winter stay in the den is not really true hibernation because the bear's body temperature drops only a few degrees. Black bears are reclusive and any indication of man's presence will usually send them into hiding.

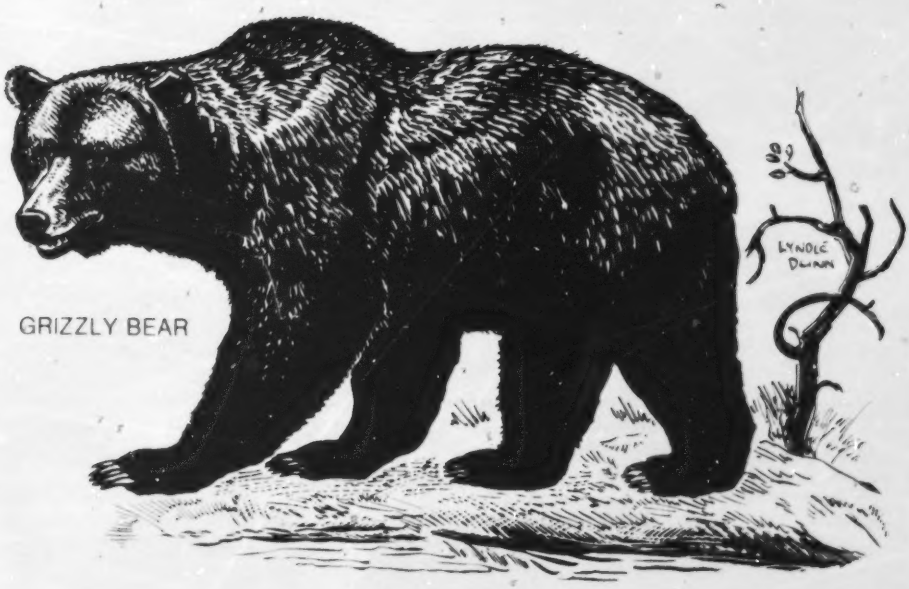
Although it was once fairly numerous in Colorado, the grizzly bear probably does not exist anywhere in the state today. The grizzly is distinguished by a concave facial outline, a maned hump over the shoulders and unusually long claws. Color ranges from yellowish to black, and the hairs of a true grizzly are silver-tipped. The spread of civilization led to the disappearance of this large predator from Colorado.

El Oso

En efecto varia de color el oso negro, de canela o pardo a negro. También puede tener manchas blancas. Habita en regiones matorrales y arboladas de Colorado. Se alimenta de hierbas, juncias, yemas, bayas, frutas, miel y varias carnes frescas y podridas. Los hijuelos generalmente nacen de parejas, mientras que la ursa está en el antro de invierno por los meses de febrero o marzo. Cualquier indicio de la presencia del humano, por lo general resulta en que se esconde el recluso oso negro. Antiguamente había muchos osos pardos (o ursus horribilis) en Colorado, más se duda que al presente se haya algungo en el estado. Su color va de amarillento a negro. Un auténtico oso pardo trae cabellos montados en plata. Este grande animal voraz tuvo que salir fuera del estado, la resulta en gran parte del empuje de civilización.



BLACK BEAR

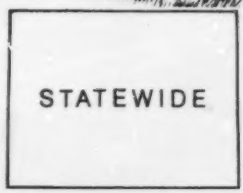


GRIZZLY BEAR

RABBITS AND HARES

Cottontail rabbits have long held the distinction of being the most popular of game animals, and all types of hunters pursue them. Three species of true hares inhabit Colorado as well—the snowshoe hare and two kinds of jackrabbit, the white-tailed and black-tailed. The snowshoe is found in forests at the higher elevations, while the black-tailed jackrabbit is found in eastern Colorado from the Wyoming border south to New Mexico and in low elevations in southwestern Colorado. The white-tailed jackrabbit is generally found throughout Colorado in nontimbered areas except the southeast corner of the state.

Cottontails are prolific and produce two to four litters annually, normally mating from late winter until early summer. The young, each weighing about an ounce, number from four to six in the average litter. In 15 days they become furred, their eyes open and they are weaned.



Los Conejos y las Liebres

El conejo es uno de los animales de caza más populares del estado. Del mismo modo se caza en Colorado tres especies de verdaderas liebres. Son la liebre con calcetas blancas, la liebre de cola blanca y la liebre de cola negra. Son fecundos los conejos; producen dos a cuatro camadas cada año. Por término medio las camadas son de cuatro a seis. Por quince días después del parto están cubiertos de piel los conejitos. Abren sus ojos y entonces están destetados. Después de un mes o más pueden defenderse.

SQUIRRELS

Three types of squirrels are considered small game animals in Colorado. Both fox and pine squirrels are hunted regularly, and an experimental season was begun on Abert's squirrels in 1977. The fox squirrel is a large tree squirrel which lives mostly in the eastern parts of the state. Fox squirrels make their dens in cottonwood, willow and box elder trees along streams. The pine squirrel, also known as the red squirrel, is a slender, small tree squirrel and lives mainly in the western mountains of Colorado. This energetic little squirrel makes its home in hollow trees, holes in the ground or complex nests of twigs, mosses, grasses and leaves in trees. Abert's squirrels live in ponderosa pine forests at 5,000 to 8,000 feet elevations. They are easy to recognize because they have long tufts of hair on their ears. They nest in the hollows of trees or build nests of pine needles, grasses, sticks and pine bark high in the foliage of trees.

Fox Squirrel

Pine Squirrel

Abert's Squirrel

Las Ardillas

Hay tres tipos distintivos de ardillas que se clasifican como caza menor de Colorado. Ambas ardillas de zorra y pino se cazan con regularidad. En el año 1977 la División experimentó con una temporada de ardillas de Abert. Por el este de Colorado se encuentra con una ardilla arbórea, que quiere decir la ardilla de zorra. Otra ardilla arbórea, la ardilla de pino, por lo general hace su habitación en las montañas del oeste. La ardilla de Abert vive en los bosques de pino de ponderosa. Se identifica facilmente por los moños de sus orejas.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

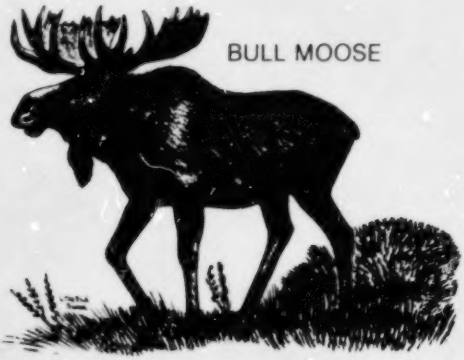
This goat-like mammal is a relative newcomer to the state, having been brought to Colorado from Montana, South Dakota and Idaho. Mountain goats are creatures of the high, sheer cliffs and pinnacles and are second to none in their climbing ability. Standing 36 to 40 inches high at the shoulder, they weigh up to 300 pounds. They have a white coat of dense, long, soft hair and the hairs on the chin are elongated into a distinctive beard. Although both sexes have horns that grow continually over bony cores, the male's horns may reach 12 inches, while the female's seldom get over nine inches. The horns are used for fighting by the males and for defending the young by the females.

Breeding usually takes place in November and December. Most females give birth to a single kid between mid-May and mid-June, although twins are not uncommon.

La Cabra Montés

Este mamifero de semejanza a una cabra fué traído a Colorado de los estados de Montana, South Dakota e Idaho. Salta por altos riscos escarpados, cierta que no es inferior a ninguna otra en su habilidad de subir. Su cubierta es blanca, espesa y larga, de pelo blando. Forma una barba los pelos de su barbilla. Ambos sexos exhiben cuernos, mas los del macho son más grandes. Crian por los meses de noviembre y diciembre y por los próximos meses de mayo o junio nace de ordinario un chivo.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT



BULL MOOSE

MOOSE

Moose were once found in Colorado, but disappeared as man's activities increased. No wonder, for these awkward-looking animals shun civilization and are usually found in areas where there is little disturbance by man. The Division, however, has brought this animal back, transplanting a small moose herd from Utah to an area near Rand, Colorado, in 1978. The moose is not yet a legal game animal in Colorado.

Moose are uniformally dark brown or black and have flat, curved-down noses. The males have distinctive scoop shovel horns. Moose often chew on willows, aspen, red maple and other small brush. Mating occurs in late September and October, and calves are usually born in May or June. The calves weigh around 30 pounds at birth and stay with the mother until the birth of calves the following spring.

La Mosa

Patrocinó la División de Animales Salvajes el regreso a Colorádo de la mosa. Transplantaron una pequeña manada de Utah a la región de Colorado cerca del lugar de Rand en el año de 1978. Por término medio los machos pesan 1,000 libras y las hembras 800 libras. De color moreno o pardo o negro, los machos muestran cuernos semejantes a paletas. Los cervatillos nacen generalmente por mayo o junio. Se quedan con la hembra hasta la próxima primavera. Se encuentran por lo regular en áreas donde no ha habido tantos disturbios por causa del humano. Todavia no se puede cazarlas en Colorado, pero quizás algún día.